Tripartite treaty for development of AWACS

116. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently signed a Tripartite treaty with Israel and Russia for developing AWACS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of funds involved in the whole project; and

(d) the number of such AWACS planes that would be developed and where they would be deployed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No tripartite treaty has been signed with Israel and Russia for developing AWACS. However, a Memorandum of Principles and Order of Co-operation defining the scope of work and area of responsibility, has been signed by the Government of India, the Government of State of Israel and the Government of the Russian Federation.

(c) and (d) It would not be in the interest of national security to disclose this information.

Development of Indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System

117. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to develop its indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System;

(b) if so, whether help from other countries will be sought for this project;

(c) if so, the countries whose help will be obtained; and

(d) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Indian Air Force and Defence Research and Development Organisation have jointly carried out a study and evolved the system level requirements for an Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system. The project proposal is under evaluation at DRDO HQs.